ABBA® · THE HITS

WATERLOO · MAMMA MIA · DANCING QUEEN · HONEY HONEY
KNOWING ME KNOWING YOU · SUPER TROUPER · S.O.S.
TAKE A CHANCE ON ME · I DO I DO I DO I DO I DO
HASTA MANANA · LAY ALL YOUR LOVE ON ME · THE VISITORS

IMP

ABBA - THE HITS

Sweden's most profitable musical export Abba leapt to international fame when they won the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest with their self-penned song WATERLOO. This title not only went to Number 1 in most European countries but made Number 6 in the U.S. Charts where Eurovision is unknown. The enormous world-encompassing success that was to follow was the almost inevitable outcome of four such talented musicians and singers - Agnetha Faltskog, Björn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Lyngstad. All four members of the group had independently established themselves in Sweden long before Abba were formed. These twinkling Scandinavian stars were to burst into supernova brilliance - illuminating the whole world when they teamed up, combining their four individual musical talents.

In 1968, a seventeen year old girl from Jonkoping, in the middle of Sweden was to get the opportunity to make a record. Agnetha Faltskog recorded four songs. This recording sessionincluded 'I Was So Much In Love' which was an immediate hit in Sweden. More hits were to follow. Her fast moving career was boosted still further when in 1972 she got the part as Maria Magdalena when 'Jesus Christ Superstar' was staged in Sweden. That part suited her strong and sonorous voice, and gained her even more attention and praise.

A young Björn Ulvaeus enjoyed playing skiffle and dixieland on his first guitar. Later in the early sixties he was to become a leading member in The Hootenanny Singers, a popular Swedish band signed

up by Stig Anderson. The group came with the right sound at the right time and mixed old songs with a modern sound and a few goodies designed by Mr. Ulvaeus himself. In addition, he worked for Stig's publishing house and learned the administrative side of the music business from the ground upwards. In 1968 Björn started a solo career by recording a Swedish version of Bobby Goldsboro's 'Honey' which was a big hit. The next year he met Agnetha Faltskog, and soon the young couple were the pop romance of the year. As early as 1966 he had met Benny Andersson, but it was not until later that their co-operation stood on a firmer basis. They wrote songs for several Swedish artists and came up with some big hits. In the summer of 1971, Björn and Agnetha were married, and soon they were joined by Benny in a trio, performing all over Sweden. Benny's girlfriend Anni-Frid Lyngstad was invited to be a background singer for some recordings but it was obvious that the formula of a foursome made the perfect combination.

Benny Andersson was already in Sweden's music scene when he became a member of the popular band Hep Stars in 1963. The Hep Stars had already made a record but the first recording session Benny took part in went down in history. On one and the same day, they recorded 'Cadillac', 'A Tribute To Buddy Holly', and 'Farmer John', three hits that were soon heard all over Scandinavia. Hep Stars was perhaps the most popular group in the Nordic countries, and Benny Andersson was its biggest star. They recorded some fifteen hits, most of them composed by Benny. In 1968 he began spreading his musical influences composing for other musicians and producing with Stig Anderson.

Anni-Frid (Frida) Lyngstad got her big break in a popular TV show in the autumn of 1967. That led to a recording contract, and Frida soon became one of the most popular solo artists in Sweden. Her favourite singers are Ella Fitzgerald, Anita O'Day and Peggy Lee. Her favourite music is swing, jazz ballads and Glenn Miller. The four adopted the name Abba in 1973 and commenced recording all their material in English. At that time 'Ring Ring' was written for the Swedish Song Contest and as a probable contender for the Eurovision Contest. Although it did not win in Sweden, the disc was a firm international success and was a Number 1 in several European countries and South Africa.

At this point Benny and Björn had hit upon a formula for writing hit material. The group's songs were melodic, employing perfect harmonies with impeccable production. So, the merging of these four great individual talents won the Eurovision Song Contest for Sweden in 1974. In 1975 they released S.O.S. which edged its way into Europe and proved the decisive springboard of global success, confirming that Abba were now worldwide. Then came MAMMA MIA a single which started a succession of nine Number 1's including DANCING QUEEN which gave them their first American chart-topper, KNOWING ME KNOWING YOU, TAKE A CHANCE ON ME and SUPER TROUPER - if that were not enough there were also seven more Top 5 hits.

In 1977 they embarked on an elaborate world tour with an entourage of fourteen musicians, and graced with exquisite sets and lavish productions. This reinforced their outstanding popularity. The

Australian part of the tour was the background for their debut feature film - 'Abba - The Movie'. A year later the band opened their superbly equipped recording studios in Stockholm, where many a hit song has been recorded. In 1979 a second massive worldwide tour was underway which took in dates in America, Canada for the first time, Britain, Europe and Japan.

The group has received innumerable Gold and Platinum discs from all corners of the globe. Their flawless formula meant that every recording was a perfectly crafted piece of pop commercialism, employing perfect vocal harmonies and impeccable production of great pop songs. Hear for yourself the superb mastery of studio technology as created by Abba on this fantastic IMP Compact Disc.

ABBA - THE HITS

1. WATERLOO
(B. Andersson-B. Ulvaeus-S. Anderson) Bocu Music Ltd
2. S.O.S
(B. Andersson-B. Ulvaeus-S. Anderson) Bocu Music Ltd
3. DANCING QUEEN
(B. Andersson-B. Ulvaeus-S. Anderson) Bocu Music Ltd
4. KNOWING ME KNOWING YOU
(B. Andersson-B. Ulvaeus-S. Anderson) Bocu Music Ltd
5. LAY ALL YOUR LOVE ON ME
(B. Andersson-B. Ulvaeus) Bocu Music Ltd
6. SUPER TROUPER
(B. Andersson-B. Ulvaeus) Bocu Music Ltd
7. TAKE A CHANCE ON ME
(B. Andersson-B. Ulvaeus) Bocu Music Ltd
8. I DO I DO I DO I DO I DO
(B. Andersson-B. Ulvaeus-S. Anderson) Bocu Music Ltd
9. HONEY HONEY
(B. Andersson-B. Ulvaeus-S. Anderson) Bocu Music Ltd
10. HASTA MANANA
(B. Andersson-B. Ulvaeus-S. Anderson) Bocu Music Ltd
11. THE VISITORS
(B. Andersson-B. Ulvaeus) Bocu Music Ltd
12. MAMMA MIA
(B. Andersson-B. Ulvaeus-S. Anderson) Bocu Music Ltd

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